

WisVote Absentee: Coming Attractions FAQs

Can a button be added for SVD voting that will create the application, ballot, and mark the ballot issued and returned (similar to Vote-in-Person where it ass the ballot and marks it as returned in one step)?	One objective of the streamlined Vote-In-Person process was to drastically reduce the processing time for absentee ballots and the tendency for large numbers of voters taking advantage of voting-in-person. Voting in Care Facilities serviced by Special Voting Deputies is a separate process and does not adapt as well to a streamlined process since absentee applications already exist for most and are returned for other reasons. Using the batch process for issuing and managing absentee ballot records may be the best option for SVD voting.
Is it possible to have the Central Count Ballot Listing sorted first by Reporting Unit then alphabetically? We have four reporting units polling at the same location and have poll workers working between four separate alphabetized lists to find the voter,	We will be reviewing each absentee ballot listing report to ensure that they meet user needs before the 2020 election cycle. This will include adapting the current central count ballot listing to enable sorting by reporting unit or by creating a new presorted report to accomplish the same.
If a voter brings in their absentee ballot to the polling place, can it be counted?	Yes. Absentee ballots returned to the polls may be counted. The voter's participation should still be recorded as absentee.
Where do we find the indefinitely confined cancellation letter?	Select (mark) a ballot record from the "Absentee Ballots Associated" view for the voter requiring the letter. The application type must be "indefinitely confined" and the ballot record in a "not returned" status. Click on the "Letters" button just above the column headers to generate the letter.

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<p>Sometimes we find out from a family member that a person has died before the ballot is returned. Would we not mark it as "returned to be rejected" unless we receive the ballot?</p>	<p>That is correct. You would only mark a ballot as "returned to be rejected" if it was returned. Otherwise, leave the ballot in the not returned status. It will automatically be deactivated if not returned by Election Day when the election is closed.</p>
<p>You would still need to be able to print a mailing label for the SVD people. If they have an active absentee on file, you visit twice, and are unable to make contact with the individual, you are supposed to mail the ballot to them.</p>	<p>That is correct. If you have visited the care facility twice and the voter is not available to vote, then you would need two labels to mail the ballot to the voter.</p>
<p>Must ballots returned from a voter who is deceased be deactivated? Or can they just be left alone as not returned?</p>	<p>Wisconsin Statutes require that poll workers review ballots for rejection, therefore a ballot returned from a voter who has since deceased must remain in an active status until that determination is made. Clerks may record those ballots as "returned to be rejected" with the reason "deceased" before sending them to the polling place/central count. Once poll workers have made the final determination that the ballot was rejected, then deactivate the ballot with the reason "deceased".</p>
<p>The reason we want voter contact information it in My Vote is so temp help can assist in processing absentee requests when they don't have access to WisVote. They wouldn't be using My Vote as an absentee applicant, but as a user to see this information for processing paperwork.</p>	<p>Will check with MyVote team to see if that is a possibility</p>

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It would be nice if the Absentee Poll Listing contained subtotals of absentee ballots returned by ward.	The current Absentee Central Count Listing is sorted by ward then alphabetically. Although it was designed for those municipalities that use central count, many have found that it meets their needs better than the absentee poll listing.
What is the difference between "Mark Ballots as Returned" and Record Returned Ballots"?	"Mark Ballots as Returned" is only used for manually recording absentee ballots as returned and will only work by marking a ballot record or records to mark them as returned with either today's date or the one you enter. You may do the same thing by using the "Record Returned Ballots" button but it contains other reasons for recording returned ballots as well as accommodating scanning.
Can we remove the date ballot sent so it doesn't show on MyVote? We print the labels weeks ahead of time. The date appears immediately to the voter using MyVote.	It is a statutory requirement to include the date, however we are exploring ways to use the batch absentee request process to "trigger" a ballot sent date in the future when that date the ballots are sent arrives.
Would be nice to access absentee numbers breaking down between different ballot delivery methods (i.e., in-person, mail, etc.) Currently, we must generate a report when we just need a fast number	The chart pane may be used for this purpose, From the "Absentee Ballots Associated" view, click on the "Chart Pane" button just above the column headers and select where you want it to appear. Then from the "Systems Charts" select "By Application Type Delivery Method"
Adding a count to the area where we are recording returned ballots would be helpful. We receive hundreds of ballots per day	Thanks for the suggestion. The absentee team will explore adding a returned ballot count to the "Absentee Ballots Associated View".

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It would be nice if MyVote would encourage the voter to leave their contact information. We often have questions regarding their application but have no contact information.	We will pass this on to the MyVote team.
Once absentee enhancements are made, will accepting a deceased registration list alert also cancel an associated absentee ballot and application?	If a ballot has not been issued, the application will be deactivated. If a ballot has been issued but not returned, the application and ballot are deactivated. If a ballot has been issued and returned, the application will remain active and the ballot will be marked as "Returned to be Rejected" with the reason "Deceased".
Will accepting a deceased registration list alert deactivate a ballot for the current election?	Yes. See the scenarios for the last question.
I don't believe having a "SVD" button similar to the Vote-In-Person button which issues and returns ballots is a good idea. Our Special Voting Deputies regularly return with ballots that the residents were unable to vote so they get cancelled. It would cause a lot of work. It works well now to scan the ones voted back in.	Thank you for your comment. We will share it in consideration with our election administration. Incidentally, if a resident of a Care Facility serviced by Special Voting Deputies decides not to vote, record those ballots as returned with the reason "Voter Refused". This creates a record in WisVote that the voter was offered a ballot.
Since WisVote doesn't allow a "Date Ballot Sent" date to be entered for the future, the public information is not useful as you cannot update it until the date the ballots are sent. When you mail thousands of ballots you need to print them weeks ahead and the public does think they are on the way.	It is a statutory requirement to include the date, however we are exploring ways to use the batch absentee request process to "trigger" a ballot sent date in the future when that date the ballots are to be sent arrives.

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Maybe allow Clerks to enter the actual send date on batches but auto populate when issuing ballots singly or in small multiples?	Adding a future date will most likely need to be implemented through the batch process. Thank you for your additional comment on this issue.
We need a report that shows all absentee ballots where a vote was scanned in, but the ballots was not marked as returned because it was dropped off at the polls.	This may be more of a training issue rather than a report issue. The information is readily available and may be more easily obtained if we include it in WisVote reconciliation training.
Consider renaming the “Record Returned Ballots” button as “Record Returned Ballots Status”.	Thank you for this recommendation. We will consider it with all other recommendations submitted.
Can we have a "Deceased" option in the absentee deactivate list? It is in the voter registration, but not in the absentee list?	There is no need to use the reason “deceased” when deactivating an absentee application as it will be associated with a registration record that is inactivated as “deceased”.
Can the addition of “Photo ID” be added to MyVote WI as well?	Currently MyVote notifications indicate if a voter has an acceptable photo ID on file. If not, MyVote prompts the user to scan one and attach it to the application.
Are there instructions in the WisVote manual to see how to run those canned letters to notify the voter that has an indefinitely confined application on file but did not return a ballot for a general election?	Refer to Chapter 3.6 of the WisVote manual (Manage Absentee Ballots) under the section “Print the Indefinitely Confined Letter”
Would it be possible to have a “Ballot Label Created” field AND a “Ballot Mailed Date” field?	It is possible, but we will first attempt to make the batch process work to set a future date when labels are printed in advance of ballots being sent out.

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Regarding the Absentee Central Count lists...Can it be sorted by our batch name instead of individual wards?	We will work to make the Absentee Central Count work with multiple sorting filters. In addition to sorting by batch name, we have requests for sorting by ballot style.
If we record a ballot as "Returned" "Voter Refused" for a voter in a Care Facility serviced by SVD's, does that cancel the absentee application on file?	No. Recording the ballot in this manner leaves the application on file as active. If a voter declines a ballot for a General Election, send the "Indefinitely Confined" letter and deactivate the absentee application if no response within 30 days or if the voter specifically states they do not wish to remain on the absentee list.
Regarding snow birds, would it be possible to list annual date ranges on absentee applications and their corresponding mailing addresses? Post office takes a bit to return undeliverable ballots that and we find ourselves scrambling to get ballots to voters at the last minute.	Currently we do not have this feature since WisVote associates applications with specific elections. Since the postal service cannot forward absentee ballots the only way to accomplish this is to enter separate applications for elections during the period the voters are away.
Are there any chances for the County Clerk's Offices to be cc'd email all online registrations & absentee applications for their reliers? We currently don't receive them unless the municipality clerk forwards them to us.	County clerks may be cc'd on MyVote notifications. Request to be added by contacting the WEC help desk.
Does the State sent out the "indefinitely confined" letters for those that don't return a ballot after a general election?	Letters must be sent at the municipal level. We do have a letter template that may be accessed from the "Absentee Ballots Associated" view.

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Do you recommend the County send the letters for reliers or have the reliers send the letters so they are aware of the process?	The WEC has no recommendation. Responsibilities such as these are often included in memorandums of understanding between Counties and their relier municipalities.
Are there plans to update the Absentee Ballot Listing Report? Trying to determine the correct ballots returned that were counted can be very confusing.	Purpose is to track all ballots for the election and their final status - for all ballots. May need to consider other reports needed.
I have had the problem with double scrolling in WisVote. Can something be done?	We are aware of how frustrating this can be, we will see what we can do about it or provide a training session on how to handle it.
Could the design of the letters that are available in WisVote changed so it looks "official"? We used the "canned" WisVote letters once and voters said that they looked suspicious. Municipalities should be able to change the design in WisVote rather than create a new design in word.	Placing a municipal letterhead on the WisVote letters would need to be done at the municipal level since they are sent from the municipality. At present, you may open the generated letter in word and "paste" the contents on your municipalitie's letterhead.